

REMARKS

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 12, claims 13 to 23 are pending in the present application, since claims 1 to 11 were previously canceled. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been considered.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references. With respect to the references disclosed in the prior Information Disclosure Statement, which were apparently not provided by the International Search Authority, Applicant submits herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 paper, which includes previously disclosed courtesy copies of the references. Accordingly, no fees are believed to be due.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 23 is allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 23 has been rewritten herein in independent form and to include the features of its base claim. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 13 to 15 and 17 to 22 has been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 13 to 22 ultimately depend from claim 23. Therefore, all of claims 13 to 23 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claim has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby obviating the remaining claim rejection.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as originally and/or previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 13 to 23 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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